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### A Study of Social Attitude Similarity Between Parents and Children

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A STUDY OF SOCIAL ATTITUDE  
SIMILARITY BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN

being

A Thesis Presented to the Graduate Faculty  
of the Fort Hays Kansas State College in  
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for  
the Degree of Master of Science

by

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## ABSTRACT

This study was designed to test three hypotheses: (1) College freshmen and sophomores will be more like their parents in social attitudes than will juniors and seniors, (2) The more dogmatic the parent, the more similar will be the child and parent in attitudes, and (3) The similarity in attitudes between parents and children will be higher if those parents are quite similar in attitudes.

The sample consisted of fifty-seven family units in the Hays, Kansas, area. Each unit consisted of one child who was attending college while living with his biological parents. The students were given two fifteen-item clusters which were designed to determine attitudes toward the church and political economic conservatism. The parents were given the same attitude items as the children, as well as Bass's measure of the acquiescence response set and Rokeach's dogmatism scale.

Cronbach and Gleser's  $D^2$  measure was used to evaluate the amount of similarity between the child's and parent's attitudes. The dogmatism scores were corrected for the acquiescence response set so that a truer indication of the amount of dogmatism in the parents could be had.

It was concluded that college freshmen and sophomores were not more like their parents on the attitudes studied than juniors and seniors. Also, dogmatism in parents does not appear to significantly influence the child's attitudes in the direction of the parent's attitudes. Finally, the amount of similarity between parent's attitudes appears to be related to the amount of similarity between parents and their children on the attitudes studied.

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Much has been said about the important influence parents have on the personalities of their children. The fact that parents are the main factor in determining the way a child perceives his world can hardly be questioned. On the other hand, there has been very little experimental evidence reported which tells how a particular type of parent might influence its child. It would be very desirable to be able to predict the behavior of a child by knowing something about its parents. The present study is an attempt to explore some of the characteristics of parents which may influence the way their children think about certain social issues. Rokeach's (1956) Dogmatism Scale and Bass's (1956) measure of the acquiescence response set will be used as a measure of a part of the parents' personality.

Roff (1950) and Crook (1937) have reviewed the literature which deals with the relationships of personality characteristics, including attitudes, to intra-family characteristics. They found that most of the work had been done to determine how similar children and parents were in their attitudes, rather than to determine what characteristics of the family or parents might be important in determining attitudes. Both reviewers conclude that a positive relationship exists between the attitudes of parents and those of their children.

One of the classic studies done in this area was by Newcomb and Svehla (1937). They were interested in the relationship between parents

and their children on certain attitudes. They administered Thurstone scales of the measurement of attitudes toward church, war, and communism to 558 families. Positive correlations ranging from .40 to .71 were found between parents and children on the attitudes tested. Thus, they found parents and children tend to think alike about the attitudes studied.

Another study which deals with the same problem was done by Kirkpatrick (1936). He compared attitudes in two successive generations in regard to feminism. The Belief Pattern Scale for Measuring Attitudes Toward Feminism was given to 272 students and 178 parents. The results found rank order correlations ranging from .33 to .62 between the parents and children. This again shows that the parents and children tended to think alike about the attitude studied.

Kirkpatrick and Stone (1935) did a study on the relationship between the religious attitudes of college students and those of their parents. The mean score for 172 parents was 12.3 on the Belief Pattern Scale, while their children had a mean score of 1.8. This difference in means indicates that the parents and college students were not similar in religious attitudes when the means were compared. Since the parents and children were compared as groups rather than as pairs of individuals, the possibility that they were similar in relative position in religious attitudes still remains. That is, correlation might have revealed that parents and their children occupied similar relative position in spite of the marked difference in the means.

The Purdue Opinion Poll was administered to 207 pupils in ten senior high schools in Illinois and Indiana by Remmers and Weltman (1947).

The parents and teachers of the pupils were also polled. They found correlations of .80 to .94, which indicates a strong positive relationship among members of the same families with respect to the political attitudes studied.

A positive relationship was found between the attitudes of children and both of their parents in a study by Hirshberg and Gilliland (1942). The degree of relationship between the attitudes of the parents and children was found to depend on the attitudes studied. The attitudes studied and the detailed results of the study were not available, since the article was not available as a primary source, but was found in the Psychological Abstracts.

In a study by Peterson (1936), which was also available only in the Psychological Abstracts, parents and children were tested on ten social questions. All correlations between parents and children were positive and most were quite high. Parents resembled each other more than parents resembled the children, and siblings resembled each other more than they did their parents. The correlations found in this study were not reported in the abstract.

One general conclusion that can be drawn after reviewing the studies in this section is that a positive relationship exists between the attitudes of parents and their children. Further, it may be concluded that the degree of similarity may be different for different social attitudes.

#### Factors Related to Degree of Similarity

Although the existence of some degree of child-parent similarity



in social attitudes seems rather well established, there have been few reports of studies which have dealt directly with factors which may be related to the degree of similarity. Proctor (1958) gave six clusters of attitude items to children of high school age and their parents. In addition, the parents were given Rokeach's Dogmatism Scale and an over-possessiveness scale based on Schafer's and Bell's work. The results did not show, generally speaking, any significant relationships between these two measures of the parent's personality and the amount of similarity between parent's and children's attitudes. Also, it was reported that children's attitudes seem to become more like their parent's as they grow older; the opposite of what was expected.

Anschutz (1961), in an unpublished pilot study, studied the amount of similarity between thirteen college students and their parents on social attitudes. He compared his results to those of Proctor (1958) and found that college students were more similar to their parents than high school students. The trend toward more similarity was less pronounced for the students of ages 23-29 than those of ages 17-20. This indicates that the trend may reverse itself for upperclassmen. The results are very tentative due to the small number of cases.

Newcomb and Svehla also suggested some factors that might have an influence upon the amount of similarity. They found that child-parent similarity increased as occupational status decreased. Occupational status is an index of social status, so it appears that social status may affect the amount of similarity. They report children become less "conservative" with increasing age, whereas older parents



are more conservative than younger ones. Therefore, the parent-child divergence in mean scores increases with increasing age levels. This conclusion would seem to support Anschutz's results that the older college students would be less like their parents than the younger ones. The actual results of Newcomb and Svehla were taken from data collected from children of ages fourteen to fifty-seven.

Morgan and Remmers (1935) made a comparison of attitudes of 173 high-school students with 341 college students on the Harper Social Study. They compared seventeen parents with their children. The college students tended to be more liberal than the high-school students on social issues. They also tended to be more liberal than their parents. One might conclude that college has an effect upon the similarity of attitudes between parents and children. The small number of parents used weakens this conclusion.

Sex of the child and parents has been a factor that has been explored as having a possible effect on the amount of similarity. Since this study will not deal with this problem, the studies that have dealt with it will not be reviewed. Generally speaking, the results are inconsistent and therefore inconclusive as to what effect the sex of the child or parent may have.

### Measuring Similarity

One of the major problems connected with the evaluation of similarity in attitudes has been the measures used. Cronbach and Gleser (1953) discuss the various advantages and disadvantages of the commonly used measures and offer one that overcomes many of the disadvantages.

One can compare scores using several methods such as correlation. Also, it is possible to compare means and standard deviations for an index similarity. These methods are summary statistics and are used to compare groups of people on a particular variable. The method Cronbach and Gleser offer overcomes many of these problems. It is called the  $D^2$  and takes into consideration the mean, scatter and relative position of each person's score. This method will be used in this study to determine the amount of similarity between parents and children on the two sets of social attitude items.

#### Response Set

The large amount of work done on response sets and their effect on a test score suggests a possible explanation for the insignificant results that Proctor found between parental personality and child-parent similarity. Response sets may be defined as test-taking habits which affect the score of a test apart from the content of the item. Cronbach (1950) discusses evidence for the existence of several response sets which may affect the validity of a test. The particular response set which appears to affect the Dogmatism Scale the most is acquiescence or the tendency to agree. The Dogmatism Scale is constructed such that all of the statements are dogmatic in nature and S must indicate the degree of agreement or disagreement he feels about the statement. Thus, those people who tend to agree with a statement, any statement, will appear to be dogmatic even if they are not in reality.

Bass (1955) tested the hypothesis that scores on the F scale and similarly constructed inventories are primarily measures of acquiescence,

rather than authoritarianism. For each of the statements of the original F scale, he constructed opposite statements which were called the G scale. Response set to acquiesce was measured by obtaining each individual's tendency to support both the F and G scale statements. A factor analysis of these data indicated that approximately three-fourths of the reliable variance of the F scale was associated with an acquiescence factor while only one-fourth was attributable to a content factor of authoritarianism. It appears that these results may be due primarily to a response set to acquiesce to any generalizations about social issues. It seems plausible that this same response set is affecting the results of the Dogmatism Scale also.

Bass (1956) and Couch and Keniston (1960) have developed measures of the acquiescence response set. Bass's method is the shorter and easier to use of the two and appears to be just as valid. He devised a 56-item scale of statements which are neutral in content and give a response set score that may be used to correct a score on another test. Webster (1958) has developed a statistical method for correcting for response set once a measure of the response set has been obtained.

## CHAPTER II

## STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

This paper is an attempt to extend part of Proctor's study with attempts to correct for the acquiescence response set on the Dogmatism Scale. The various studies reviewed have pointed out that the social class of the Ss may influence the results of attempts to compare parents to children on social attitudes. It is believed that the sample in this study was homogeneous enough to limit any variation due to social class to a minimum. It also seemed necessary to eliminate any Ss who were not living with their biological parents. The reason for eliminating these Ss was to control for the influence of a step-parent on the child. If a child had a step-father, it would not be possible to determine whether the natural father or step-father had influenced him the most. Since the influence of the parent is one of the primary considerations of this paper, it was necessary to control for any outside influence such as step-parents. The foregoing material provided the background for making the hypotheses which this study sought to test.

Proctor's results concerning the amount of similarity of the various age groups of children provided the rationale for the first hypothesis. He found that as the children grew older, they became more like their parents in some attitudes. One can probably expect this trend to continue until the child is influenced by new ideas and suitable pressures and becomes somewhat independent in his thinking. Such a point is probably reached during the junior and senior years in college.

Newcomb and Svehla and Anschutz both provide data in their studies that give tentative support to this hypothesis. Therefore:

- I. College freshmen and sophomores will be more like their parents in social attitudes than will juniors and seniors.

The second hypothesis had to do with the effects of dogmatism in parents on attitude similarity between children and parents. Rokeach speaks of the dogmatic person as having a closed system of beliefs, reliance on one or two authorities and an intolerance of viewpoints of others. Such a parent would seemingly provide a definite attitude system as a model for his child and probably would tolerate little deviation from it. Therefore:

- II. The more dogmatic the parent, the more similar will be the child and parent in attitudes.

It was hoped that the correction of the response set on the Dogmatism Scale would help yield the positive results that Proctor did not get.

The third hypothesis dealt with the amount of similarity between parents. Husbands and wives who are consistent with each other in their attitudes would have a more consistent attitude system for the child to follow, thus making it easier for the child to decide what he believes. This consistency may draw the child to the attitude system of his parents, whereas an inconsistent system might drive him away. The third hypothesis then was:

- III. The similarity in attitudes between parents and children will be higher if those parents are quite similar in attitudes.



## CHAPTER III

## DESIGN AND PROCEDURE

The subjects of this study were college students who lived with their parents in the Hays, Kansas, area. The parents of these students were also used. The age of the students was controlled by eliminating any student that deviated from the mean age of his class by more than two years. Also, any student who was not living with his biological parents was not included in the sample.

The sample was collected by telephoning all students listed in the Campus Directory as having Hays as a home address. The students were told that the caller was a graduate student in psychology at the college and that he was working on his master's thesis. The students were asked if they were living with their parents and attending college at the present time. If they were, they were asked to come to the psychology department and fill out a questionnaire which was designed to find out what a person thinks about some social issues.

The parents were also contacted on the phone and asked to take part in a public opinion poll. The writer made an appointment at a time when both parents were available to work on the questionnaire.

Two fifteen-item clusters which determine attitudes toward the church and toward economic-political conservatism were used. These clusters were designed and used by Proctor in his study. The political and economic conservatism items were taken from Darley and McNamara's Minnesota Personality Scale (1941). The church and religion items were

taken from Frankel, Grahm, and Holtzman's Attitude toward Religion Scale (1957). These two clusters were chosen from the six that Proctor used because of the necessity to limit the present study and because they gave the most interesting results in his study. The Dogmatism Scale was taken from Rokeach (1956) and is the same one that Proctor used. Rokeach reports this 40-item has reliability coefficients of .78 and .81. Bass's 56-item scale of social acquiescence was used also. The various scales and items can be found in the appendix of this paper.

The questionnaire and the two attitude clusters were administered to the students in the sample while they were on campus. The writer made personal contact with the parents of these students and administered the two attitude clusters, the Dogmatism Scale and the response set items. The response set items was given first because of the nature of the items and the different method of answering. The parents were asked to answer the questions individually and to do them all at once, if possible. Every attempt was made to follow the same procedure that Proctor used in gathering his data. The instructions which were given are found in the appendix of this paper.



## CHAPTER IV

## ANALYSIS OF DATA AND RESULTS

The sample consisted of thirty-one male and twenty-six female students, with twenty freshmen, seventeen sophomores and twenty juniors and seniors. Of 260 possible subjects, 109 agreed to come in and fill out the questionnaire. None of the students refused to cooperate and the 151 which did not participate were eliminated for several reasons, such as: not living with both of their parents, dropped out of school, were too old, or did not have time to come in. Of the 109 who agreed to come in and fill out the questionnaire, ninety-two actually showed up. It was necessary to throw out thirteen of these cases for failure to meet the standards of the sample. Of the seventy-nine left, twenty-two were lost in the process of trying to obtain data from the parents. Some of the parents were out of town, some were unable to be home at the same time and some were lost for various other reasons.

To prepare the responses on the attitude items for analysis and summary, the previously mentioned  $D^2$  statistic was made. The Cronbach and Gleser (1953) review of the various methods of assessing similarity between sets of scores suggests the  $D^2$  measure which overcomes many of the weaknesses in the commonly used measures. They say the most satisfactory method is to conceive of the tests as co-ordinates, and each person's score as a point in the test space. The distance between points, computed by the  $D^2$  measure, is an index of overall similarity between score sets. The  $D^2$  measure takes into consideration the scatter of the

scores, the relative position and the means of the scores. Most of the other measures of similarity do not take into consideration these important factors, at least not all of them. The formula for the  $D^2$  measure is:

$$D^2 = \sum (X_1 - X_2)^2$$

where  $X_1$  is the score of one person on an item of the scale and  $X_2$  is the second person's score on the same item. These squared differences are then summed to get an indication of the amount of similarity between the two people on those measures. A relatively small  $D^2$  value indicates similarity.

Two  $D^2$ 's, one for each cluster of attitude items, were computed for each parent and child. The result was an indication of the amount of similarity between parent and child. Webster's formula was applied to the Dogmatism scores and response set scores so that a truer indication of the amount of dogmatism in each parent could be had. The corrected Dogmatism scores were then correlated with the amount of similarity between parents and children to obtain a measure of the relationship between dogmatism and similarity.

The  $D^2$  was also used to evaluate the amount of similarity between parents. Once this index was obtained, it was correlated with the average of the two  $D^2$ 's obtained between the two parents and the child. This resulted in an indication of the relationship of similarity in parents to the amount of similarity between parents and child.

A one-way analysis of variance was computed to test for the college classification trend in similarity between parents and children.

The test was for any significant differences between the age groups in the amount of similarity between the parents and children.

### Results

The results of this research appear to be similar to those obtained from the Proctor study.

The one-way analysis of variance between age groups (academic classification) revealed no significant trend toward dissimilarity for students of higher classification. None of the four F's were significant beyond the level of chance. The sums of the squares and the F scores are found in Table I for the four analyses of variance computed. In Table II are found the means for each child-parent  $D^2$  on each attitude within each academic classification.

Correlations were computed between the corrected Dogmatism scores of the parents and the similarity indexes between the parents and children. These correlations are presented in Table III. Again, none of the correlations were significant beyond the level of chance.

To test for the relationship between similarity of parents and the amount of similarity between parents and children, correlations were computed between the average of the father-child  $D^2$  and the mother-child  $D^2$  as the X variable and the mother-father  $D^2$  as the Y variable. A correlation of .54 was found between parent similarity and parent-child similarity on the political economic conservatism attitude. On the church attitude a correlation of .42 was found between parent similarity and child-parent similarity. Both of these correlations are significant beyond the .01 level of confidence.

The standard deviations and means which were obtained in conjunction with the computations reported above are found in Tables IV and V.

The grade or age trends in Proctor's data and the data of the present study are compared in Figure 1.

Table 1

Analysis of Variance of the  $D^2$  values based on the Attitude Clusters for parent versus child with the academic classification of the child as the independent variable.

**Mother-child  $D^2$  on political economic conservatism**

Components	Sum of Squares	df	F
Betw. sets	1,455	2	1.01
Within sets	39,200	54	
Total	40,655	56	

**Father-child  $D^2$  on political economic conservatism**

Components	Sum of Squares	df	F
Betw. sets	1,571	2	.46
Within sets	92,542	54	
Total	94,113	56	

**Mother-child  $D^2$  on church**

Components	Sum of Squares	df	F
Betw. sets	3,208	2	1.99
Within sets	43,469	54	
Total	46,677	56	

**Father-child  $D^2$  on church**

Components	Sum of Squares	df	F
Betw. sets	1,866	2	1.5
Within sets	33,326	54	
Total	35,192	56	

Table 2

Means of college classifications on attitude  
similarity scores between parents and students

	Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors- Seniors
Father-child Church	32.9	47.1	38.1
Father-child Pol. Econ. Con.	56.8	55.2	67.9
Mother-child Church	31.2	48.2	32.5
Mother-child Pol. Econ. Con.	48.8	55.5	60.8

Table 3

Correlation between dogmatism in parents and amount of  
similarity in attitudes between parents and college students

	Dogmatism	
	Mother	Father
Attitude toward Church	-.17	.14
Attitude toward Pol. Econ. Con.	.01	.13
(r of .27 is needed for significance at .05 level)		

Table 4

Standard deviations and means of  
attitude similarity scores. N = 57

	Father-child		Mother-child	
	S.D.	M	S.D.	M
Attitude toward Church	24.7	38.9	28.5	36.7
Attitude toward Pol. Econ. Con.	40.5	59.8	26.6	55.0

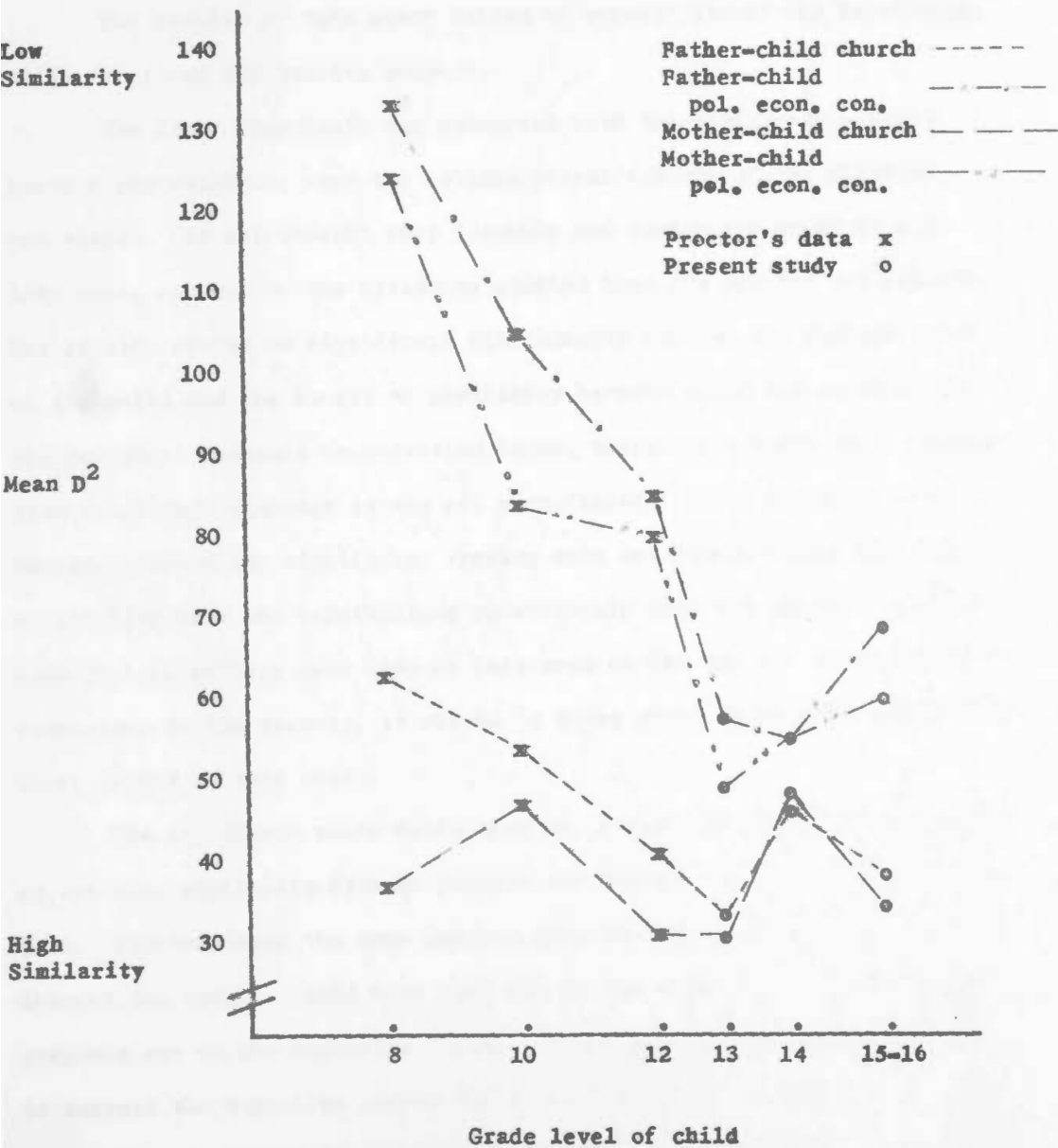
Table 5

Standard deviations and means of  
dogmatism scores. N = 57

	Father		Mother	
	S.D.	M	S.D.	M
Dogmatism	20.1	79.3	22.1	76.0



Figure 1. Proctor's data compared with the present studies in regard to the age trend in similarity between parents and children



## CHAPTER V

## DISCUSSION

The results of this study failed to support two of the hypotheses, while the third did receive support.

The first hypothesis was concerned with the similarity between parents and children, when the college classification of the children was varied. It was thought that freshmen and sophomores would be more like their parents on the attitudes studied than the juniors and seniors. The results showed no significant relationship between the college class of the child and the amount of similarity between child and parent. On the political economic conservatism items, there was a trend in the direction predicted, although it was not significant. There seems to be no obvious reasons why significant results were not found, other than the possibility that the hypothesized relationship does not exist. It would seem that if college does have an influence on the way a student thinks in comparison to his parents, it may be in other areas or on other items than those tested in this study.

The hypothesis which dealt with the effects of dogmatism in parents on attitude similarity between parents and children also received no support. Proctor found the same results with his high school sample, but thought the results could have been due to the effects of an acquiescence response set on the dogmatism scores. Since the present study attempted to correct the dogmatism scores for the response set, it appears that dogmatism is not related to attitude similarity in the hypothesized. Perhaps

the dogmatic parent's child rearing practices have no significant effect on attitudes toward the church and political economic conservatism, but do influence the child in regard to such things as dating practices and social mores. Significant results might be found if attitudes which were more dependent on the parents' influence were studied. Also, it may be that the child reacts to a dogmatic parent in a more complex way than hypothesized. The possibility that some children may rebel against the dogmatic parent while others would comply may be part of this complexity. This type of relationship to dogmatism would contribute to insignificant results on a study like the present one.

The third hypothesis, which predicted that high similarity between parents' attitudes would result in high similarity between parents' and children's attitudes received tentative support. The possibility exists that an artifact influenced the results; but the problem is so complex, the present author could not definitely solve it at the present time. The problem involves the manner in which the two sets of scores which were correlated were obtained. Some of the same data was used in both sets of scores, causing the correlation to appear to be analagous to a part-whole type of correlation. However, a true part-whole correlation was not obtained and it is not clear whether the statistics reported represent the data in the way hypothesized or not. The assumption was made that the data fit the distribution which is appropriate for a coefficient of correlation and the validity of the results rests on this assumption. The results are quite interesting and seem to show that children will think more like their parents if their parents think alike.

The implications of these results for parents and future parents seem obvious. If parents want their children to think like them, then they must learn to think alike themselves. Newcombe and Svehla reported results which were similar to those of the present study. They selected families from their sample which had a high parent-child correlation on one of the attitudes studied and then examined the correlations for these families on the other attitudes studied. It was found that the other attitudes also tended to yield higher correlations than the general sample. This indicates that parents and children who tend to think alike on one attitude will tend to think alike on other attitudes. One might speculate that these results hint at a deeper relationship between stability in the parents' marriage and the development of their child. A more stable marriage might result in a more stable child. However, the present study did not explore the stability of the child's personality; therefore, more research is necessary before any definite statement can be made on this point.

Proctor's results were compared to those of this study in Figure 1 on page 19. The curve shows that the results of the political economic conservatism items were related in the originally predicted way, although the relationship was not strong enough to show significance. As the age of the Ss increased, the more similar they became to their parents in attitudes, until grade 14, where the trend began to reverse itself. If more cases had been available, the results might have been significant.

Perhaps the main reason the results of this study were largely insignificant was the lack of variability on the answers to the attitude



items; especially the church items. It would be necessary to have more sensitive items in any future research similar to the present study. It is essential to have a large variety of answers to each item if one is going to attempt to predict what might cause a variety in answers.

Future researchers may want to test the results of this study concerning the effects of similarity in parents' attitudes on child-parent attitude similarity. The important implications of these results seem to point out the need for more research to see if such a relationship really exists.

Any research to be done with the effect of parent personality variables on child-parent attitude similarity would profit from the results of the present study. Future research must be sure to use attitude items that are sensitive enough to get at the factors which cause people to think differently about a certain thing. Also, the variables in the parent's personality should be closely related to those attitudes being studied, so that any influence the variables have might be evaluated. It would be interesting to explore the inter-workings of the family in depth with such techniques as interviews and personality inventories. The results of such a study might point out some variables which were quite important in determining attitude similarity between family members.

Future research on the age trend in similarity also seems warranted. It would be interesting to see what the relationship in attitude similarity between parents and children was for children who did not go to college. Also, it would be interesting to explore the same relationship for students who have graduated from college. One factor which is important in studying

the age trend in similarity is the stability of the parents' attitudes. It may be that the parents' attitudes change with the student's, especially if there is a great deal of interaction between the parents and student. If such a situation really existed, any attempt to show that college influenced the amount of similarity between parents' and children's attitudes would fail, no matter what the influence of college really was. It seems reasonable to obtain longitudinal data on parents while their children are in college to see if their attitudes might change as a result of their child being in college. The results would be useful in evaluating the influence of college on the students.

Important information in this regard might be gained if the index of overall similarity were broken down into its components. For example, if the curves in Figure 1 for political economic conservatism truly approximate the overall similarity trend with age, the reason or reasons are obscure. The leveling off in similarity and the later decrease in similarity with age may be due to any combination of the three components in the  $D^2$  statistic.

## CHAPTER VI

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study was designed to test three hypotheses: (1) College freshmen and sophomores will be more like their parents in social attitudes than will juniors and seniors, (2) The more dogmatic the parent, the more similar will be the child and parent in attitudes, and (3) The similarity in attitudes between parents and children will be higher if those parents are quite similar in attitudes.

The sample consisted of fifty-seven family units in the Hays, Kansas, area. Each unit consisted of one child living with his biological parents. The children were college students and were contacted by telephone and asked to fill out a questionnaire about some social issues. Of the 109 who agreed to come, ninety-two actually came and of this ninety-two, thirteen had to be thrown out for failure to meet standards of the sample. The students were given two fifteen-item clusters which were designed to determine attitudes toward the church and political economic conservatism. The parents were contacted by telephone and asked to take part in a public opinion poll. The writer made an appointment at a time both parents were available to work on the questionnaire. At the appointed time the same two clusters of attitudes used for the students were given to the parents to answer. Also, Bass's measure of the acquiescence response set and Rokeach's dogmatism scale were given at the same time.

Cronbach and Gleser's  $D^2$  measure was used to evaluate the amount of similarity between the child's and parent's attitudes. The dogmatism



scores were corrected for the acquiescence response set so that a truer indication of the amount of dogmatism in the parents could be had.

It was concluded that college freshmen and sophomores were not more like their parents on the attitudes studied than juniors and seniors. Also, dogmatism in parents does not appear to significantly influence the child's attitudes in the direction of the parent's attitudes. Finally, the amount of similarity between parents' attitudes appears to be related to the amount of similarity between parents and their children on the attitudes studied.

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## APPENDIX

## Instructions

are trying to find out what the average student feels and thinks about a number of important social questions.

You will probably find the survey interesting. It is a little different from the usual public opinion poll because the statements or questions cover more ground. You will find statements about a variety of issues, many of which you have thought about, read about in newspapers and magazines and heard about on radio and television.

This is not an intelligence test or an information test. There are no "right" or "wrong" answers. The only true answer is your personal opinion. You can be sure that, whatever your opinion may be on a certain issue, there will be many people who agree, many who disagree. We want to find out how public opinion is divided on these socially important topics.

It should be emphasized that the sponsors of this survey do not necessarily agree or disagree with the statements in it. We have tried to cover a good many points of view. We agree with some statements and disagree with others. Similarly, you will probably find yourself agreeing strongly with some statements, and disagreeing just as strongly with others, and perhaps being more neutral about still others.

Please follow these instructions:

- a. Read each statement and answer it according to your first reaction. It is not necessary to spend much time on any one statement.
- b. Answer every question.
- c. Give your personal point of view. Do not talk the statements over with anyone until you have finished.
- d. Be as sincere, accurate and complete as possible in the limited time and space available.

YOUR ANSWERS TO THESE STATEMENTS WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

Only one but the research people will ever see your answers. The findings will be reported for the group and not for individual students.

### Instructions for Answering

Read the first statement and decide which of the following answers best describes your opinion on the statement:

- SA means you strongly agree with the statement; your agreement is strong and complete.
- A means you agree with the statement; you agree, but not strongly.
- MA means you mildly agree with the statement; you agree more than you disagree.
- MD means you mildly disagree with the statement; you disagree more than you agree.
- D means you disagree with the statement; you disagree but not strongly.
- SD means you strongly disagree with the statement; your disagreement is strong and complete.

Decide on your answer as quickly as possible. Then, mark your answer to the right of the statement by circling one of the six sets of letters. For example, if you strongly disagree with the following statement, you would mark it this way:

Football is a silly sport.

SA A MA MD D SD

Follow the same procedure with each of the statements.



# Student Attitude Items

1. There must be some kind of a power higher than that of man.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
2. The good that rich men do more than compensates for the irregular or unethical practices they may have used to obtain their wealth.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
3. There is a God who is aware of what I do.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
4. Private doctors should encourage trends toward government help in paying our medical bills.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
5. Immortality, or a life after death, is a meaningless idea.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
6. Money should be taken from the rich by taxes and given to the poor during hard times.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
7. There is no God.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
8. Men would not do their best if government owned all business and industry.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
9. The church is losing ground as education advances.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
10. Student clubs to discuss socialism and communism should not be allowed in colleges and universities.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
11. Very religious people are usually narrow minded.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
12. If our economic system were just, there would be much less crime.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
13. The church helps a person to be more honest and creditable.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
14. The amount of profit which a business can make should be regulated by the government.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
15. Belief in eternal life is a hope of weak people.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
16. Men should be allowed to strike in order to get more money for their labor.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
17. People pray - but they don't expect anything to come of it.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD

8. Poverty is mostly a result of injustice in our economic system.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
9. Those who feel that prayers are answered are just deceiving themselves.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
10. Pickets arrested for blocking the entrance to a factory should be heavily fined.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
11. The church is the greatest institution in America today.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
12. School teachers who openly approve of labor unions and socialistic ideas should be dismissed.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
13. Church attendance is worthless.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
14. Large incomes should be taxed more than they are now.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
15. Church membership is almost essential to living life at its best.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
16. The money a person earns is a fair measure of what they contribute to the good of our society.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
17. Church attendance does not provide spiritual uplift.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
18. Sit-down strikes should not be tolerated.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
19. Life should be centered around religion.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
20. Most great fortunes are made honestly.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD

# Response Set Items

0. Success against odds is the greatest of American ideals.	A N D
1. Love is the greatest of Arts.	A N D
2. There is no satisfaction without a companion to share it.	A N D
3. Love of the opposite sex makes the world go round.	A N D
4. They never fail who die in a great cause.	A N D
5. He that has many friends need never fear disaster.	A N D
6. Destroyers of tyranny have contributed the most to mankind.	A N D
7. You only injure yourself when you take notice of despised critics.	A N D
8. The only known cure for fear is faith.	A N D
9. Our chief want in life is somebody who will make us do what we can.	A N D
10. Never trust a flatterer.	A N D
11. He who laughs last laughs longest.	A N D
12. No principle is more noble or holy than that of true obedience.	A N D
13. There is nothing which the body suffers which the soul may not profit by.	A N D
14. One false friend can do more harm than one hundred enemies.	A N D
15. No gift is more precious than good advice.	A N D
16. Obedience is the mother of success.	A N D
17. The victory always remains with those who admire rather than with those who criticize.	A N D
18. The greatest fortunes are for those who leave the common path and blaze a new trail for themselves.	A N D
19. 'Tis vain to quarrel with our destiny.	A N D
20. To be happy, always stay within the law.	A N D
21. You should give more than you want to give.	A N D

. Pity is the touch of God in human hearts.	A N D
. What we win through authority we lose; what we win through consideration we keep.	A N D
. A sense of duty is the basis of character.	A N D
. Next to love sympathy is the most divine passion of the human heart.	A N D
. Stay away from the proud man who is ashamed to weep.	A N D
. Sweet is the sleep of men with virtues.	A N D
. One should feel the failures of his friends as if the failures were his own.	A N D
. Giving is always better than receiving.	A N D
. He that loses his conscience has nothing left that is worth keeping.	A N D
. Virtue is a struggle in which we overcome our weaknesses.	A N D
. He conquers all who conquers himself.	A N D
. It is difficult to do excellent work without great strain.	A N D
. Only a statue's feelings are not easily hurt.	A N D
. Happiness must be won through great effort.	A N D
. The restless sleeper blames the couch.	A N D
. Seeing is believing.	A N D
. Still water runs deep.	A N D
. Make yourself honey and the flies will eat you.	A N D
. The grass is always greener in the other fellow's yard.	A N D
. Most big cows have little horns.	A N D
. Every man is blind to his own defects.	A N D
. Jaws are the only part of the body that like to work.	A N D
. Those in high places are in greater danger than those in lowly ones.	A N D
. Life is a struggle from beginning to end.	A N D

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| . Wild oats make good horses.   | A N D |
| . You can't teach an old dog new tricks.  | A N D |
| . Count your sheep and the wolf will eat them.  | A N D |
| . Sleep is loved by everyone.   | A N D |
| . The feeling of friendship is like that of being comfortably filled with roast beef. | A N D |
| . Who does not love the opposite sex remains the fool the whole life long.            | A N D |
| . Empty heads go with loud talk.  | A N D |
| . Better one safe way than a hundred on which you are not sure.                       | A N D |
| . We like best that which lies beyond our reach.                                      | A N D |
| . Amusement is the medicine for worry.  | A N D |



# Parent Form of Attitude and Dogmatism Items

dogmatism item

attitude toward church item

attitude toward political economic conservatism

- |  |    |   |    |    |   |    |
|--|----|---|----|----|---|----|
| 1. Once I get wound up in a heated discussion, I just can't stop.  | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 2. When it comes to differences of opinions in religion, we must be careful not to compromise with those who believe differently from the way we do. | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 3. There is a God who is aware of what I do.   | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 4. A man who does not believe in some great cause has not really lived.  | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 5. The church helps a person to be more honest and creditable.   | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 6. There are a number of people I have come to hate because of the things they stand for.  | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 7. Of all the different philosophies which exist in this world, there is probably only one which is correct.   | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 8. The church is the greatest institution in America today.  | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 9. It is often desirable to reserve judgment about what's going on until one has had a chance to hear the opinions of those one respects.            | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 10. Student clubs to discuss socialism and communism should not be allowed in colleges and universities.   | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 11. It is only natural that a person would have a much better acquaintance with ideas he believes in than with ideas he opposes.                     | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 12. There is so much to be done and so little time to do it.   | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 13. If our economic system were just, there would be much less crime.  | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |



- |   |    |   |    |    |   |    |
|---|----|---|----|----|---|----|
| 14. The highest form of government is a democracy and the highest form of a democracy is a government run by those who are most intelligent.              | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 15. In times like these, a person must be pretty selfish if he considers primarily his own happiness.   | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 16. Large incomes should be taxed more than they are now.   | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 17. People pray - but they really don't expect anything to come of it.  | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 18. It is better to be a dead hero than to be a live coward.  | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 19. A person who gets enthusiastic about too many causes is likely to be pretty "wishy-washy" sort of person.   | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 20. Church membership is almost essential to living life at its best.   | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 21. Pickets arrested for blocking the entrance to a factory should be heavily fined.  | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 22. Even though freedom of speech for all groups is a worthwhile goal, it is unfortunately necessary to restrict the freedom of certain political groups. | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 23. Most of the ideas which get printed nowadays aren't worth the paper they are printed on.  | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 24. Men would not do their best if government owned all business and industry.  | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 25. In a discussion I often find it necessary to repeat myself several times to make sure I am being understood.  | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 26. In this complicated world of ours, the only way we can know what's going on is to rely on leaders or experts who can be trusted.                      | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |
| 27. Very religious people are usually narrow minded.  | SA | A | MA | MD | D | SD |

28.	The United States and Russia have just about nothing in common.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
29.	Church attendance is worthless.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
30.	There are two kinds of people in this world: those who are for the truth and those who are against the truth.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
31.	The good that rich men do more than compensates for the irregular or unethical practices they may have used to obtain their wealth.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
32.	In the long run the best way to live is to pick friends and associates whose tastes and beliefs are the same as one's own.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
33.	Immortality, or a life after death, is a meaningless idea.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
34.	The worst crime a person could commit is to attack publicly the people who believe in the same thing he does.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
35.	Life should be centered around religion.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
36.	Unfortunately, a good many people with whom I have discussed important social and moral problems don't really understand what's going on.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
37.	To compromise with our political opponents is dangerous because it usually leads to betrayal of our own side.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
38.	There must be some kind of power higher than that of man.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
39.	Men should be allowed to strike in order to get more money for their labor.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
40.	Fundamentally, the world we live in is a pretty lonesome place.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
41.	The money a person earns is a fair measure of what they contribute to the good of our society.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
42.	It is only when a person devotes himself to an ideal or cause that life becomes meaningful.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
43.	Money should be taken from the rich by taxes and given to the poor during hard times.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD

44.	Private doctors should encourage trends toward government help in paying our medical bills.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
45.	A person who thinks primarily of his own happiness is beneath contempt.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
46.	In the history of mankind there have probably been just a handful of really great thinkers.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
47.	Those who feel that prayers are answered are just deceiving themselves.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
48.	In times like these it is often necessary to be more on guard against ideas put out by people or groups in one's own camp than by those in the opposing camp.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
49.	If a man is to accomplish his mission in life, it is sometimes necessary to gamble "all or nothing at all".	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
50.	Poverty is mostly a result of injustice in our economic system.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
51.	If given the chance, I would do something of great benefit to the world.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
52.	Most people just don't give a "darn" for others.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
53.	Most great fortunes are made honestly.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
54.	It is only natural for a person to be rather fearful of the future.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
55.	The amount of profit which a business can make should be regulated by the government.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
56.	My blood boils whenever a person stubbornly refuses to admit he is wrong.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
57.	While I don't like to admit this even to myself, my secret ambition is to become a great man, like Einstein or Beethoven, or Shakespeare.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
58.	Belief in eternal life is a hope of weak people.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD

59.	In a heated discussion I generally become so absorbed in what I am going to say that I forget to listen to what the others are saying.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
60.	School teachers who openly approve of labor unions and socialistic ideas should be dismissed.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
61.	The main thing in life is for a person to want to do something important.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
62.	The church is losing ground as education advances.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
63.	Most people just don't know what's good for them.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
64.	There is no God.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
65.	A group which tolerates too much difference of opinion among its own members cannot exist for long.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
66.	The present is all too full of unhappiness. It is only the future that counts.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
67.	Church attendance does not provide spiritual uplift.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
68.	I'd like it if I could find someone who would tell me how to solve my personal problems.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
69.	Sit-down strikes should not be tolerated.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD
70.	Man on his own is a helpless and miserable creature.	SA	A	MA	MD	D	SD